



Arizona Department of Education

Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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CTE FACTS

CTE FACTS is published monthly during the school year and highlights informative educational statistics related to Career and Technical Education (CTE). The focus this school year is on Arizona CTE Core Values. This month's Core Value is:

Promoting the Arizona Workplace Standards for all students.

Workplace Skills Standards Gaining Importance

Business and industry personnel place a high degree of importance on the need for students at all grade levels to understand the "soft skills", such as being able to write, listen and speak effectively, and work collaboratively within a team setting. Since more and more business and industry personnel are placing a greater importance on the Arizona Workplace Skills Standards than ever before, we are highlighting ways that the CTE community is currently responding to this need from the business and industry community.

What are the Arizona Workplace Skills Standards?

The Arizona Workplace Skills Standards (which can be accessed at <http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/contentstandards.asp/>) "...are designed to be integrated into the traditional curriculum taught in schools at all levels and are most effectively learned in the context of an integrated effort involving parents, educators, business partners and members of the community. Student acquisition of critical workplace skills, with an emphasis on application, is a developmental process which encompasses an individual's entire lifetime. The demonstration of these skills is essential for individuals and contributes to the foundation of an educated citizenry." ¹

Standard # 1 Students use principles of effective oral, written and listening communication skills to make decisions and solve workplace problems.	Standard # 5 Students will demonstrate a set of marketable skills that enhance career options.
Standard # 2 Students apply computation skills and data analysis techniques to make decisions and solve workplace problems.	Standard # 6 Students illustrate how social, organizational and technological systems function.
Standard # 3 Students apply critical and creative thinking skills to make decisions and solve workplace problems.	Standard # 7 Students demonstrate technological literacy for productivity in the workplace.
Standard # 4 Students work individually and collaboratively within team settings to accomplish objectives.	Standard # 8 Students apply principles of resource management and develop skills that promote personal and professional well-being.

¹ Arizona. Department of Education. *Workplace Standards*. School Effectiveness Division, 1997.

How is Career and Technical Education Promoting Arizona Workplace Skills Standards?

The CTE community is responding to the need to address these standards by including them in the newly proposed CTE Delivery System model. This model, which is being planned for implementation in school year 2007-2008, integrates the standards into all CTE courses in grades 7-12. It is noteworthy to mention that CTE programs do not own these state standards and, therefore, are not the only program areas that should be teaching them. They are meant to be incorporated into the “academic” areas such as English and math. To emphasize this, the Arizona Workplace Skills Standards were created to cover all grade levels, starting with performance objectives for Kindergarten, and continue through to grade 12.

Additionally, a statewide program called Partners Advancing Student Success (PASS), which has been in existence for the past three years, teaches the eight workplace standards each summer to elementary, middle and high school teachers in all academic disciplines. This program, which is made possible through a partnership with APS, Motorola and Communities In Schools of Arizona, is designed to bring business and education together in an effort to further the integration of the standards into the schools and to promote business-education partnerships for a better-prepared workforce. The program had three school districts participate in its inaugural year of 2002. Since then, two school districts were added in 2003, five in 2004 and 12 or 13 are projected to be added this summer.

Finally, the State CTE Advisory Committee to the State Board of Education has openly committed in its prior meetings to having the Arizona Department of Education emphasize these foundational skills within its CTE curriculum frameworks. While the implementation of these standards has been occurring, the committee’s confirmation of the importance to be placed on these standards has been validated.

UPDATED FACTS...

CTE Students Achieve Academic Standards

By the time CTE student concentrators* graduated from high school in school year 2003-04, they had achieved the following results on the reading, writing and math AIMS test:

65.89% of the CTE concentrators had successfully passed the AIMS Reading test.

72.66% of the CTE concentrators had successfully passed the AIMS Writing test.

40.28% of the CTE concentrators had successfully passed the AIMS Math test.

** A student who achieves two Carnegie units/credits in a single CTE Program. Source: Career and Technical Education Unit, Arizona Department of Education.*

CTE Vision: Ensure a dynamic workforce by fully developing every student’s career and academic potential.

CTE Mission: Prepare Arizona students for workplace success and continuous learning

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